

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO UNITED STATES
MARINE LIEUTENANT GENERAL
SAMUEL T. HELLAND

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2009

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the United States Marine Corps are exceptional.

Our country has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to keep this country free and safe. United States Marine Lieutenant General Samuel T. Helland is one of these individuals.

Lt. General Helland earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Minnesota, Duluth and holds a Master of Science Degree from Troy State University. He is a graduate of the Marine Corps Command and Staff College and the National Defense University, Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Lt. General Helland started his military career by enlisting in the Army in 1968. He served three years with the U.S. Army Special Forces, leaving after a combat tour of duty in Vietnam with the 5th Special Forces Group (ABN), Military Advisory Command (Special Observations Group). Lt. General Helland graduated from Marine Officer Candidate School in 1973, and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1974. He is qualified as a CH-53 pilot.

Lt. General Helland has served in many different capacities over the years; Lt. General Helland served with the Amphibious Units, Aviation Combat Elements, and Joint Task Forces. He has participated in exercises and contingency operations ranging from the Arctic Circle, throughout the Mediterranean and Caribbean Seas, the Persian Gulf, and the Horn of Africa.

His assignments include Staff Officer for the Logistics Officer for the Marine Aircraft Group 26, Operations Officer for Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461, MAG 40, Joint Staff Officer in the J-7, Command of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), Deputy Commander JTF-Shining Hope, US Joint Forces Command, Norfolk VA, US Marine Corps Forces South, Commanding General Fleet Marine Forces South, Assistant Deputy Commandant for Aviation. In May 2004, Lt. General Helland assumed command of Combined Joint Task Force, Horn of Africa. From August 2005 to July 2007, Lt. General Helland commanded the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, MCAS Miramar San Diego, California. In July 2007, he assumed duty as Deputy Commanding General I MEF Camp Pendleton, CA before assuming his present assignment as Commanding General I MEF; Commander, Marine Corps Forces Central Command.

His decorations include the Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, Purple Heart, Meritorious Serv-

ice Medal with gold star, Defense Superior Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon with one star, and various service and unit awards.

Lt. General Helland's tireless passion for service has contributed to the betterment of this country. On the occasion of his retirement and on behalf of the people of the United States whom he has served with courage and honor, we commemorate the service of Lieutenant General Samuel T. Helland.

H. RES. 627

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2009

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my thanks for the service of the men and women of the 81st Brigade Combat Team and all of the Washington National Guard.

In August of 2008, over 2,400 Washington State Guardsmen and women in the 81st BCT mobilized for deployment. After several weeks of training at Fort McCoy, the unit deployed for ten months of service in Iraq.

The 81st BCT's primary missions in Iraq were providing security to convoys, protecting U.S. forces, and engaging in provincial reconstruction. They performed these missions admirably, and the unit returned home in August of 2009.

Unfortunately, one soldier in the 81st BCT, Specialist Samuel Stone, was killed in Iraq earlier this year. I am deeply sorry for the loss that his friends and family must feel. We will not forget his sacrifice for our country.

It is an honor to represent so many of the men and women who make up the 81st BCT, the Washington National Guard, and the Air National Guard as well as the families who support them.

Over 11,000 members of the Washington National Guard have been mobilized since September 11, 2001, for service in Iraq and in response to domestic emergencies such as Hurricane Katrina. Their service helps keep our nation strong and free.

I congratulate the 81st BCT on the occasion of their return from Iraq. I thank them and all our men and women in uniform for the sacrifices they make on behalf of our country.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES "ROCKY"
ROBINSON, JR.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of James "Rocky" Robinson, Jr.,

founder of the Bedford Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps (BSVAC) and an inspiration to the community of Brooklyn.

James ("Rocky") Robinson, Jr. was born on July 15, 1940, in Marietta, North Carolina, to Betty and James Robinson. When he was still an infant, his family moved to Brooklyn, New York, where Rocky was raised. After attending Eastern District High School in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, Rocky served five years in the United States Army. His army duty included serving as a member of the Honor Guard, posted at the Arlington National Cemetery, where he stood guard during the visits of Jackie Kennedy and her children to John F. Kennedy's grave.

After leaving the military, Rocky joined New York City's Emergency Medical Service (EMS) where he served the city for more than 30 years, before retiring in 2000. His career with EMS was marked by many accomplishments. In 1977 he was promoted to Lieutenant, and in 1994 he became a Captain. Through his work with EMS, Rocky witnessed the crisis in emergency medical services in New York's minority communities. To respond to these crises, in 1988 Rocky co-founded the Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps ("BSVAC"), America's first minority volunteer ambulance corps.

The remarkable story of Rocky and BSVAC has been told in print, on the radio and on television. BSVAC first began operations with no ambulance and no volunteers, at a point when the response time in Bedford-Stuyvesant for city ambulances averaged about 30 minutes. In the beginning, Rocky and his partner, Spec. Joe Perez, responded on foot to the calls they heard on their police radio. Eventually, BSVAC established a record-breaking ambulance service that has responded to over 400 emergency calls a month with an average response time of less than four minutes.

Through BSVAC, Rocky has worked tirelessly to help the Bedford-Stuyvesant community. Rocky designed a comprehensive emergency medical training program including trauma troopers, First Responders, and youth corps. To date, thousands of local residents have been trained to save lives in emergencies. In addition, hundreds of young people have completed the youth corps program (basic EMT training); almost 100% of the graduates have become EMTs or have otherwise pursued careers in medicine as a nurse, physician's assistant, or doctor. Although he has concentrated his efforts on Bed-Stuy, Rocky has reached out to other minority communities, from Harlem to Los Angeles, providing emergency medical training and assistance in setting up programs. Closer to home, in 1993, Rocky responded to the first World Trade Center incident with BSVAC; he also responded on 9/11 when BSVAC volunteers saved a firefighter's life.

Rocky's ability to inspire led him to being chosen to address the Republican National Convention in Houston, Texas in 1994. For his remarkable accomplishments and ongoing efforts, Rocky has received numerous awards,

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